

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

### Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Health Services Financing

#### Direct Service Worker Registry (LAC 48:I.Chapter 92)

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 48:I.Chapter 92 as authorized by R.S. 40:2179-2179.1. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

In compliance with the directives of Act 306 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing adopted provisions governing the establishment and maintenance of the Direct Service Worker (DSW) Registry and defined the qualifications and requirements for direct service workers (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 32, Number 11). The November 20, 2006 Rule was amended to further clarify the provisions governing the DSW registry (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 33, Number 1). The department amended the provisions governing the training curriculum for direct service workers to require that licensed providers and other state approved training entities that wish to conduct training for direct service workers, and do not have an approved training curriculum, must use the department-approved training curriculum (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 35, Volume 11).

House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 94 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature suspended LAC.48.I.9201-9203 and directed the department to adopt new provisions governing the DSW Registry which will eliminate duplicative regulations and streamline the DSW process. In compliance with the directives of HCR 94, the department proposes to amend the provisions governing the DSW Registry in order to create a more manageable and efficient DSW process.

This action is being taken to protect the health and well-being of Louisiana citizens who receive care from direct service workers, and to eliminate the risks associated with services rendered by direct service workers who have committed substantiated acts of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. It is estimated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will have no programmatic costs for state fiscal year 2010-11.

Effective April 20, 2011, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing the Direct Service Workers Registry.

#### Title 48

#### PUBLIC HEALTH—GENERAL

#### Part I. General Administration

#### Subpart 3. Health Standards

#### Chapter 92. Direct Service Worker

#### RegistrySubchapter A.General Provisions

#### §9201. Definitions

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*Employer*—an individual or entity that pays an individual wages or a salary for performing a job.

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*Finding*—allegations of abuse, neglect, exploitation or extortion that are placed on the registry by the department following a decision by an administrative law judge or a court of law after all appeal delays afforded by law or allegations of abuse, neglect, exploitation or extortion that are placed on the registry by the department as a result of failure to timely request an appeal in accordance with this rule.

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*Provider*—an entity that furnishes care and services to consumers and has been licensed by the Department of Health and Hospitals to operate in the state.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2058 (November 2006), amended LR 33:95 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### §9202. Introduction

A. The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) shall maintain a registry of individuals for whom specific findings of abuse, neglect, exploitation or extortion have been substantiated by the department, an administrative law judge or a court of law.

B. The Direct Service Worker Registry will contain the following items on each individual for whom a finding has been placed:

1. name;
  - a. - i.v. Repealed.
2. address;
3. Social Security number;
4. telephone number;
5. state registration number;
6. an accurate summary of finding(s); and
7. information relative to registry status which will be available through procedures established by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Health Standards Section (HSS).

C. Employers must use the registry to determine if there is a finding that a prospective hire has abused or neglected an individual being supported, or misappropriated the individual's property or funds. If there is such a finding on the registry, the prospective employee shall not be hired.

D. Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2059 (November 2006), amended LR 33:95 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### Subchapter B. Training and Competency Requirements

#### §9211. General Provisions

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2059 (November 2006), amended LR 33:96 (January 2007), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### §9213. Trainee Responsibilities

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2059 (November 2006), amended LR 33:96 (January 2007), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### **§9215. Training Curriculum**

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2060 (November 2006), amended LR 33:96 (January 2007), LR 35:2437 (November 2009), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### **§9217. Training Coordinators**

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2060 (November 2006), amended LR 33:97 (January 2007), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### **§9219. Competency Evaluation**

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2060 (November 2006), amended LR 33:97 (January 2007), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### **§9221. Compliance with Training and Competency Evaluation**

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2060 (November 2006), amended LR 33:97 (January 2007), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### **Subchapter C. Provider Participation**

##### **§9231. Provider Responsibilities**

A. Prior to hiring any direct service worker or trainee, a licensed provider shall:

1. assure that the individual is at least 18 years of age, and that they have the ability to read, write and carry out directions competently as assigned; and
2. access the registry to determine if there is a finding that he/she has abused or neglected an individual being supported or misappropriated the individual's property or funds. If there is such a finding on the registry, the prospective employee shall not be hired.

B. The provider shall check the registry every six months to determine if any currently employed direct service worker or trainee has been placed on the registry with a finding that he/she has abused or neglected an individual being supported or misappropriated the individual's property or funds.

1. The provider shall maintain printed confirmation from the registry web site as verification of compliance with this procedure.

C. - E.2 Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2061 (November 2006), amended LR 33:97 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### **Subchapter E. Violations**

##### **§9271. Disqualification of Training Programs**

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2061 (November 2006), amended LR 33:98 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

##### **§9273. Allegations of Direct Service Worker Wrong-Doing**

A. The Department, through the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor, has provided for a process of the review and investigation of all allegations of wrong-doing by direct service workers. Direct service workers and trainees must not:

1. - 2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2061 (November 2006), amended LR 33:98 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

#### **Subchapter F. Administrative Hearings**

##### **§9285. General Provisions**

A. ...

1. The request for an administrative hearing must be made in writing to the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor.

2. ...

3. Unless a timely and proper request is received by the Division of Administrative Law or its successor, the findings of the department shall be considered a final and binding administrative determination.

a. ...

B. When an administrative hearing is scheduled, the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor, shall notify the direct service worker, his/her representative and the agency representative in writing.

1. - 1.c. ...

C. The administrative hearing shall be conducted by an administrative law judge from the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor, as authorized by R.S. 46:107 and according to the following procedures.

1. - 8. ...

9. When the allegation(s) supporting placement of a finding is substantiated, the direct service worker may not rest on the mere denial in his/her testimony and/or pleading(s) but must set forth specific facts and produce evidence to disprove or contest the allegation(s).

D. - H. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health

Services Financing, LR 32:2062 (November 2006), amended LR 33:98 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

**§9287. Preliminary Conferences**

A. - A.6. ...

B. When the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor, schedules a preliminary conference, all parties shall be notified in writing. The notice shall direct any parties and their attorneys to appear on a specific date and at a specific time and place.

C. - C.1. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2062 (November 2006), amended LR 33:99 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

**§9293. Failure to Appear at Administrative Hearings**

A. If a direct service worker fails to appear at an administrative hearing, a notice/letter of abandonment may be issued by the Division of Administrative Law, or its successor, dismissing the appeal. A copy of the notice shall be mailed to each party.

B. - B.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 40:2179-2179.1.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 32:2063 (November 2006), amended LR 33:100 (January 2007), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 37:

Interested persons may submit written comments to Don Gregory, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Bruce D. Greenstein  
Secretary